



Suite 201, 1090 King Georges Post Road,
Edison, NJ 08837 • (201) 225-6116

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE REMOVAL AND PREVENTION
EPA CONTRACT 68-01-7367

TAT-02-F-03593

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas Kady
Response and Prevention Branch, U.S. EPA

FROM: Edward W. Blonar, TAT PM *EWB*
Jeffrey Simonsen, TAT QC *JS*

SUBJECT: Arkansas Chemical Company
Justification for Elevator Repair in Building 28

DATE: April 28, 1987

Background:

The Arkansas Chemical Company, located on 185 Foundry Street, Newark, New Jersey produced textile and other specialty chemicals at this site until it was abandoned in 1983. The site consists of a two story office/laboratory building (Bldg. 25/30), a boiler room/tank house (Bldg. 16/16B), a machine shop (Bldg. 26), a storage building (Bldg. 24) and a four story chemical manufacturing building (Bldg. 28/28B).

At the present time, Building 28/28B contains various process vessels and mixing tanks, which contain unknown liquids. There are approximately 1,100 drums (approximately 600 empty) scattered throughout the building. On the third floor is an abandoned laboratory. In addition, the floors are heavily stained with caustic and unknown materials.

During Arkansas' operation an elevator located in the north-east corner of Building 28 was used to transport drums, equipment, raw materials and chemical product to the various floors. In addition, this elevator represents the only feasible way that materials from the outside were received and shipped.

Situation:

As part of a recent assessment of the site, it was realized that any potential cleanup of Building 28 would require the use of the above mentioned elevator.

Roy F. Weston, Inc.

SPILL PREVENTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION

In Association with ICF Technology Inc., C.C. Johnson & Associates, Inc., Resource Applications, Inc., Geo/Resource Consultants, Inc., and Environmental Toxicology International, Inc.

On April 24, 1987, I spoke to Mr. George Hoffman, a technical service technician, from Otis Elevator Co. located in Fairfield, New Jersey (201-575-8670). According to Mr. Hoffman, the elevator in Building 28 is a roped cable freight elevator. In addition, he stated that at the time of Arkansas' closing (1983), the elevator was operational and that a service agreement (monthly maintenance contract) existed between Arkansas and Otis Elevator Co. Until electric power is restored in Building 28, the condition of the elevator can not be determined.

Based on the fact that a functional elevator would significantly expedite any cleanup operation at Arkansas Chemical, I suggest that a monthly maintenance agreement with Otis Elevator Co. be obtained upon implementation of the Arkansas removal action.

From a safety standpoint, utilizing Otis Elevator Co. personnel to check and maintain the elevator seems most appropriate. Since the company has worked on these elevators in the past and this one in particular, they are thoroughly familiar with its operation and can anticipate any potential problems. Furthermore, it would be cost effective, since they would need minimal start up time to familiarize themselves with the overall workings of the elevator.